

Submitter: Ariana Blondo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

I am a physical therapist in an outpatient setting. As you can imagine, the patients I treat come from all walks of life. Due to the current state of our healthcare system, many of the disadvantaged patients are unable to receive regular medical care by a physician. This makes acquiring durable medical equipment exceptionally challenging as the patient often has to be the middle man between the physical therapist recommending it and the most overworked physician ultimately writing the prescription. Additionally, physical therapists are the experts on the musculoskeletal system, yes, but also how every other major system in the body can impact mobility, strength, and basic participation in life. This makes us the perfect healthcare professional to be prescribing DME because we know exactly the purpose we are trying to fulfill. Please, for the sake of the communities in Oregon, give this responsibility to the people who should have always had it.